



Docket No. 56687 (71526)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: M. Maki, et al.

SERIAL NO. 10/030,015

EXAMINER: B. M. Fubara

FILED: May 15, 2002

GROUP: 1615

FOR: ADHESIVE PREPARATION FOR PERCUTANEOUS ABSORPTION

For fee only

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated October 31, 2003 and request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

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Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being allegedly anticipated by Hirano (EP 0 976 405).

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirano (EP 0 976 405).

The prior art rejections are addressed in combination. Each of the rejections is traversed.

It is submitted that the rejection in view of EP 0 976 405 should be withdrawn on the basis of the present application's priority date of July 1, 1999. In particular, as noted in Applicants' Declaration and Oath filed on May 15, 2002, the present application claims priority to JP 11-187415 (filed July 1, 1999) and PCT/JP00/04361 (filed June 30, 2000). Whereas, the cited reference EP 0 976 405 has a publication date of February 2, 2000.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.55, Applicant submits herewith a verified translation of the priority document, Japanese Patent Application No. JP 11-187415. Such translation is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

The present application is clearly supported by the priority document, as evidenced by the translation of JP 11-187415. As such, the cited reference EP 0 976 405 is overcome.

Withdrawal of each of the §102 and §103 rejections is respectfully requested.

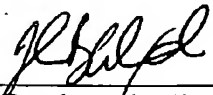
It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Although it is not believed that any additional fees are needed to consider this submission, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 27, 2004



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